

University of Southampton



University of Southampton Libraries
Special Collections
Newsletter

Winter 2005/2006



*The Sea: an illustration from "The Queen's Navee", by an Old Sailor, n.d. 1880s,
part of the autumn 2005 exhibition in the Special Collections Gallery [MS62 MB2/A80]
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Broadlands Archives Trust)*

INTRODUCTION

On 24 November 2004 the remodelled and extended Hartley Library and its new accommodation for the Special Collections Division was opened formally by the Marquess of Douro. The day's celebrations marked the conclusion of the largest extension to the Library since the University's predecessor, the University College of Southampton, was established on the Highfield site. The Special Collections Division has been in its accommodation since June 2004 and the first full year of occupation has been the busiest in its history, with more researchers than ever before, besides visitors to the new Special Collections Gallery. The programme of exhibitions over the next two years is in place and preparations are in hand for two major conferences: the University's third Wellington Congress, 10-13 July 2006; and a sixty-year perspective on the transfer of power in India and Pakistan, to take place in July 2007.

2005 has also seen notable achievements in academic work associated with the collections. In September, the Parkes AHRC Centre on Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations completed its five-year programme of research. Another highlight this year has been the publication of Professor Colin Richmond's biography of Revd Dr James Parkes, whose library is a prominent element in the Library's printed special collections and whose work was the precursor of the Parkes Centre. The tally of publications this year is extensive, besides the completion of further doctoral theses based on the collections. It is also pleasing to note that interest in undergraduate and postgraduate work in this area remains buoyant: in November 2005, some 140 Southampton history students had the opportunity to see the Division at work as part of their first-year course.

We welcome new participants in activities related to the collections: do please contact us if you would like more information.

ARCHIVE AND MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

New accessions

Twenty-three new collections, filling 395 boxes, have been received during the last year. Prominent among these were materials connected with the Jewish community. These included further papers of J.M.Shaftesley, editor of the *Jewish Chronicle* newspaper; a letter book and records of births, marriages and burials for the internment camps for Jewish refugees on Cyprus, 1946-7; the papers of Rabbi L.Littlestone, executive director of the Council for Soviet Jewry, 1986-92, including his academic and campaigning material; papers of Dr Schneier Levenberg, head of the Jewish Agency's research department, 1939-48, and editor of the *Zionist Review* 1941-8, relating to Poale Zion; additional papers for the Jewish Blind Society; the papers of Dr Asenath Petrie, a psychologist and daughter of Chief Rabbi Hertz; and additional papers of Rabbi Schonfeld, for the Dr Avigdor Schonfeld schools.

In association with the University's Institute of Sound and Vibration Research and the Institute of Acoustics (the leading professional organisation in this field in the UK), the Special Collections have started to collect archive materials relating to acoustics. Building on an initiative undertaken by the Institute of Acoustics, accessions have included papers of the Institute of Acoustics and papers of noted acousticians, including Hope Bagenal (the senior acoustic consultant for the construction of the Royal Festival Hall), Keith Rose and Hugh Creighton.

The Library has again acquired printed ephemera relating to the Peninsular War to complement the Wellington archive.

PRINTED SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Britain in Print

The University Library is one of the partners in Britain in Print, a project which will, for the first time, provide free access to information about the rich collections of early British books held in twenty-two of the country's most important research libraries. The project, which is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is a collaborative venture led by Edinburgh University Library on behalf of the Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL). Southampton's holdings of British books printed before 1700 will be re-catalogued with the new electronic records appearing on its own catalogue and on COPAC, CURL's union catalogue. Records will be added for items from the general collection of rare books and from the Perkins Agricultural Library as well as from three smaller collections, the Crotona Fellowship



The interior of the library at the Hartley University College, in the old Hartley Institution building in Southampton High Street, 1910, a marked contrast to the new accommodation, although one of the original library tables survives [LF 781.15]

Rosicrucian Collection, the Wheler Library (the Basingstoke parish library) and from the Hartley Collection, which contains the books of H.R.Hartley, the founder of the Hartley Institution, the forerunner of the University. Books from the Parkes Library, the Cope Collection and the Wellington Pamphlets have already been re-catalogued as part of previous centrally funded retrospective conversion projects. More information on the project is available at <http://www.britaininprint.net/>

Accessions

The Parkes Library has received a donation of material originating in the Salisbury branch of the British-Israel Foundation, by way of Hampshire County Library. Other acquisitions include a collection of North American anti-Semitic publications, and a number of books on Zionism from the collection of Dr S.Levenberg.

Yiddish books

Work continues on processing the Yiddish collection for addition to stock. The material has been sorted and approximately a quarter of the books have been catalogued on the Library's on-line catalogue, WebCat. Yiddish literature is the focus of the collection, including novels, short stories and poetry, with editions of the collected works of writers such as Sholom Aleichem, Sholem Asch, I.L.Peretz, Mendele Mokher Sefarim and Zalman Shneour. There is also a limited amount of material on Eastern European Jewry. The periodicals include early issues of *Di Goldene Keyt* and copies of *Zukunft* from the 1920s to the 1960s, which extend the Parkes Library's holdings of these titles.

THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS EXHIBITION GALLERY

A programme of exhibitions based on items from the Special Collections Division is now under way. The first exhibition, *The Special Collections*, was mounted to coincide with the opening of the Hartley Library in November 2004, and was displayed for the second time during July 2005. Divided into five sections, the exhibition included a range of items from some of the principal collections, encompassing manuscript material acquired by the Hartley Institution, the University's predecessor,



A drawing by Luca Cambiaso (1527-85) of a bespectacled St Luke, with an ox (the evangelist's symbol), forms part of a sequence of drawings for an unknown ceiling painting, part of a group of his work acquired by the Hartley Institution in the late nineteenth century. The drawing was displayed in the November 2004 exhibition. [MS 286]

relating to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight; papers from the archives of two nineteenth-century Prime Ministers, the first Duke of Wellington and the third Viscount Palmerston; material from the archives of Earl Mountbatten of Burma relating to the transfer of power in the Indian subcontinent; and early printed books and Jewish archive materials.

The second exhibition, *Cecil Roth and Anglo-Jewish Intellectuals*, was held during April and May on the occasion of a Parkes Institute conference on Cecil Roth. It focused on five individuals: Cecil Roth, writer, academic and editor of the *Encyclopaedia Judaica*; C.J.Goldsmid-Montefiore, President of the Anglo-Jewish Association from 1892 to 1921 and President of the University College of Southampton, 1913-34; Israel Zangwill, writer and leading Jewish spokesman; Sir Basil Henriques, a major figure in the boys' club movement and in Jewish youth work; and L.J.Stein, barrister, political secretary of the World Zionist Organisation, and President of the Anglo-Jewish Association from 1939 to 1949.

The third exhibition, *The Sea*, ran in October and November 2005, to mark the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, and to coincide with the seventeenth Wellington Lecture, 'The immortal and the hero: Nelson and Wellington', given by the naval historian Professor Andrew Lambert on 30 November. Particular attention was given to the role of the Royal Navy in the defence of the British Isles and the empire. Many of the items displayed were drawn from the naval collections within the Broadlands Archives (MS 62), which include the papers of two First Sea Lords, Prince Louis of Battenberg (later first Marquis of Milford Haven), who held this office

immediately prior to the First World War, and his son, Lord Mountbatten. Further material came from the Cope Collection on Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, and from the papers of the first Duke of Wellington. Another section considered the sea as a means of migration and enforced travel, and the changing face of leisure travel.

Exhibitions programme for 2006

13 February – 7 April 2006: *Britain and the Far East, 1800-1950*

8 May – 23 June, 10 July – 28 July 2006: *The war against Napoleon*

4 September – 27 October 2006: *An exhibition on Anglo-Jewish history to mark the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the re-admission of the Jews*

In February and March 2007 there will be an exhibition to coincide with the two hundredth anniversary of the abolition of slavery; and in May, June and July, the Special Collections Gallery will mark the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for exhibitions and events, please send your contact details to Archives@soton.ac.uk or to our postal address, at the end of the newsletter.

RECENT RESEARCH

Dr James Gregory's doctoral research at the University of Southampton focused on the vegetarian movement in Victorian Britain. He is currently researching a dual biography of the private lives and public careers of Lord Mount Temple and his second wife, Georgina, née Tollemache. Here he reviews the friendship between Constance Wilde and Lady Mount Temple.

'I do so wish I could always live with you and look after you.' So wrote the wife of Oscar Wilde, Constance Wilde (1858-1898), to her distant cousin Georgina Cowper-Temple (1822-1901) in a letter written mid-November 1892. Georgina was the youngest daughter of the fiery Vice-Admiral John Halliday Tollemache, a stepdaughter-in-law of Lord Palmerston, and a friend of such major Victorian cultural figures as John Ruskin, Dante Gabriele Rossetti and George MacDonald. Renowned for her private kindnesses and public philanthropy, Georgina's public causes, including the promotion of sanitary knowledge for women, anti-vivisection and vegetarianism, had been supported by her husband, the Whig statesman and philanthropist Lord Mount Temple. But William Cowper-Temple, the 'angel' of her life, died in 1888, and Georgina's widowhood was marked by a sense of unceasing sorrow and increasing invalidism. Despite her own afflictions, in the final decade of her life she was a comfort and inspiration to many, including the wife of Oscar Wilde. Constance was a woman who desperately craved a maternal figure because her own mother, who had remarried, was so unloving. Georgina, who was thirty-six years Constance's senior, became her 'spiritual mother'.

The worsening circumstances of her marriage also drew Constance to Georgina. Although the importance of Lady Mount Temple in the drama of Wilde's downfall has been recognised, as her presence in the recent film *Wilde* suggested, the relationship between Constance and Georgina has had no detailed study. The Broadlands Archives at the University of Southampton,

containing several hundred of the letters that Constance wrote almost daily to Georgina over the period 1890-1898, allow at least a partial recreation of this relationship. Though the full picture would need to study the 'dear' letters (so Constance described them) from Georgina which do not appear to have survived in any significant quantity, the echo of her letters in Constance's replies and allusions to personal circumstances give an insight into Georgina's own life in a period when increasing infirmity made her unable to continue the diary which she had kept for decades. They are also a neglected source in the history of the Wilde marriage.

For the biographer of Georgina the letters offer a glimpse of a magnetic personality that still attracted new devotees. The relationship with Constance, which began in 1889, echoed Georgina's friendships with her contemporaries Emelia Gurney (1823-1896), a promoter of higher education for women, and the American Quaker Hannah Whitall Smith (1832-1911), women whose intimacy with Georgina was also sustained by frequent correspondence, also partly surviving in the Broadlands Archives. Georgina was supremely loveable, her character interpreted by devoted friends as something akin to saintliness in its wide sympathy and generous benevolence, the temper which she had inherited from her father being directed against those who inflicted suffering.

Ever sensitive to the woes of the world, Georgina must have felt that her young admirer's tragic circumstances confirmed her experience that love was synonymous with anguish. Though Constance needed to be reassured that Georgina was not exhausted or repelled by her attentions,

the relationship probably brought satisfactions for Georgina. Otho Holland-Lloyd told Georgina after Constance's death that she had been the closest spiritually of all his sister's friends. Sharing Georgina's religious and philanthropic temperament, Constance provided her 'motherly' with one connection to metropolitan-based social, moral and ethical reformers when the septuagenarian could no longer directly participate in philanthropy or the pursuit of religious truth. Constance also kept Georgina in touch with old friends such as the artist G.F.Watts, helping to alleviate some of her friend's own loneliness.

As scandal engulfed Oscar Wilde, Georgina stood by her 'Bambina', although she sympathised with her adopted daughter Juliet Deschamps in her revulsion: 'I do not think there could be a greater trial with such disgusting shame ... one cannot bear even to allude to it. Can one touch pitch and not be defiled? You are quite right in keeping aloof - so would I if I did not feel called upon to shelter her.' As she hoped, her villa at Babbacombe near Torquay briefly provided an 'ark of refuge' to the wounded dove. The rest of Constance's short life would be spent mostly on the Continent, where she died in April 1898 following a misguided operation. She had continued to write regularly to the woman whose own death she had dreaded.

PUBLICATIONS AND THESES

Prominent among the books based on the collections and published in 2005 is Professor Colin Richmond's biography of Dr James Parkes. This major study puts in print for the first time an elegant survey of Parkes' life, his role in campaigns against anti-Semitism, his academic work

to lay bare its roots, and his collections, documenting the relationship between the Jewish peoples and others.

Campaigner against anti-Semitism: the Reverend James Parkes 1896-1981 is published by Vallentine Mitchell in its Parkes-Wiener series on Jewish Studies.

Other notable volumes this year include C.Bayley and T.Harper *Forgotten armies: the fall of British Asia 1941-1945* (London, 2004); J.Charmley *The princess and the politicians: sex, intrigue and diplomacy 1812-40* (London, 2005), on Princess Lieven; P.Hoare *England's lost Eden: adventures in a Victorian Utopia* (London, 2005); A.R.J.Kushner *We Europeans? Mass-Observation, 'race' and British identity in the twentieth century* (Aldershot, 2004); A.R.J.Kushner and D.Bloxham *The Holocaust: critical historical approaches* (Manchester, 2004); A.R.J.Kushner and N.Valman *Philosemitism, antisemitism and 'the Jews': perspectives from Antiquity to the twentieth century* (London, 2004); M.Levine's *Genocide in the age of the nation state* (2 vols., London and New York, 2005); M.Pugh *'Hurrah for the blackshirts!': fascists and fascism in Britain between the wars* (London, 2005); N.Roemer *Jewish scholarship and culture in nineteenth-century Germany: between history and faith* (Madison, 2005); and L.Williamson *Power and protest: Frances Power Cobbe and Victorian society* (Rivers Oram Press, 2005).

Besides work at masters level, two Southampton doctoral theses closely associated with the collections were completed: by Elisa Lawson, on 'A popular past? Anglo-Jewish historiography and heritage, 1880-1950'; and by Mark Romans, on 'Professionalism and the development of military intelligence in Wellington's army, 1809-14'.

THE SEVENTEENTH WELLINGTON LECTURE

The 2005 Wellington Lecture was given by Andrew Lambert, Laughton Professor of Naval History at King's College London, on 30 November 2005. Taking as his theme 'The immortal and the hero: Nelson and Wellington', Professor Lambert told the audience of the only meeting between the two men, probably three-quarters of an hour of intense conversation in an ante-room at the Colonial Office while both waited to see Lord Castlereagh. The occasion was recalled in detail by Wellington some thirty years later, focusing on Nelson's strategic grasp of the war against Napoleon and the Admiral's statesmanlike qualities. The landscape of the war was changed by Trafalgar, and when Wellington came to the fore Britain was ready to counter-attack in Europe. Contrasting the role of the two heroes, Professor Lambert compared their attitudes to the individual in their forces, the common soldier or sailor; and he contrasted their opponents, the fine armies that faced Wellington and the demoralised navy that met Nelson - it was his skill to catch the French and their allies. Both achieved dominance over their enemies; and both were interred as national heroes of the war in the pantheon of St Paul's. Making a virtue of his position as a naval historian, Andrew Lambert noted that 'despite the suggestion that he should be laid side by side with the greatest of the immortal dead, [the Duke's] final resting place was at Nelson's feet. I suspect the Duke would not have objected ... While he ranks below Nelson his status is revealed by the fact that his funerary arrangements were reused but once after 1852, for Winston Churchill.'

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Two major conferences closely associated with the collections of the Special Collections Division are to take place at the University of Southampton. The Third Wellington Congress, 10-13 July 2006, will include more than thirty speakers, some from the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, on aspects of the career of the first Duke of Wellington. The first plenary session will include a keynote address by Professor Peter Jupp of Queen's University, Belfast. Professor Jupp is the author of *British politics on the eve of Reform: the Duke of Wellington's administration, 1828-30*, which was published in 1998; he has

previously given a Wellington Lecture at Southampton on the Duke in an Irish context; and he has just completed a book on *The governing of Britain, 1688-1848*. Further details about the Congress are available on the Special Collections website (<http://www.archives.lib.soton.ac.uk/>).

The second conference, a perspective on the independence of India and Pakistan, sixty years on, will be take place on 17-20 July 2007. The call for papers is on our website. We hope the event will attract a wide range of scholars to review the events on which the Mountbatten papers provide a crucial insight.

The Special Collections Newsletter is produced by the Special Collections Division, Hartley Library, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ, United Kingdom.

Further information about the Library and its holdings can be obtained from this address or by contacting:

Printed collections:

Telephone +44 (0)23 8059 3335; E-mail: libenqs@soton.ac.uk

Archives and manuscripts:

Telephone +44 (0)23 8059 2721; E-mail: archives@soton.ac.uk

Conservation:

Telephone +44 (0)23 8059 4754, +44 (0)23 8059 8544;

E-mail: archives@soton.ac.uk



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

Printed by The Print Centre 28496.12/05MD